massive investment in the agricultural sector by both the Public and Private Sectors; and

(c) if so, what are the details of these recommendations and Government's policy thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) the Steering Group on Agriculture and Allied Sectors, constituted for the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan, under the chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, has made several recommendations for achieving high growth in agriculture and making the farm produce competitive.

(b) and (c) It has been stated in the report of the Steering Group on Agriculture and Allied Sectors that if a higher growth rate in the agriculture sector is to be achieved more investment have to be made especially for the development of infrastructure like irrigation, conservation and development of natural resources like water, land and bio-diversity togetherwith the improvement of environment. Besides, public investment in technology, training and trade facilities has also to be enhanced, so as to put the agriculture sector on the fast track of growth. The input provided by the Steering Group is being examined in connection with the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The report of the Steering Group has also been circulated to the States and UTs and to the Central nodal departments/ Ministries.

Council for clean India

*265. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has formed a Council For Clean India (CFCI);

(b) if so, what is its composition and objectives;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is coming up with a new measurable index for Government organizations called as "Corruption Permission Index"; and

(d) if so, the definition of the Index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) According to the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), it has set up a virtual organization named 'Council for Clean India'. There is no intention of making it into a registered or a corporate body. Its main objective is to provide a common forum for individuals, NGOs and other eminent persons to come together and provide suggestions in the task of fighting corruption in public services.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of IT in SSI sector

*266. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Small Scale Industry is much backward so far as application of Information Technology is concerned;

(b) whether the SSI is lacking in productivity, cost control and competitiveness in the absence of Information Technology;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give incentives to the SSI with a view to help them in inducting Information Technology; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (d) The SSI sector is increasingly using Information Technology (IT) to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally. IT is being applied by SSIs in communication, office automation, marketing, accountancy, Computer Aided Design (CAD)/Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) etc. Besides, SSIs have a significant presence in software development & IT enabled services. Government has been actively promoting the induction of IT in SSIs